



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

Vol. 27, No. 8

August 2004



Pfenning assumes  
command of  
St. Paul District

## Strong relationships, mutual respect poise district to learn and lead

By Col. Mike Pfenning  
District Commander

Many thanks to all of you who've made me feel welcome here in the district. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some initial observations in order to frame the district's future. These observations are based upon not only my initial meeting with the new Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, but also my initial site visits in our five states.



here in the district. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some initial observations

In many ways, Lt. Gen. Flowers and Strock were "cut from the same cloth." Both are committed to our Corps' people and our mission, as well as the current path for organizational change. Strock intends to build upon the momentum, vision and values instituted by Flowers - Just Do It cards, and USACE 2012 and P2 remain in effect. Support to the Global War on Terror remains the Corps' first priority as we continue to execute our more regional missions.

One of the drivers of the new Chief of Engineer's vision is to continue USACE's movement toward a learning organization. During the last month, I've seen that the St. Paul District is on the way to becoming a learning organization. You are not afraid to look at yourself critically as an organization, as well as at the processes and the ways we do business, in order to improve mission accomplishment. I continue to be impressed by the professionalism, strong leadership and technical competence you demonstrate every day, as well as your commitment to make a difference.

In order to better understand our district's mission and challenges, my goal is to meet as many employees, partners and stakeholders in my first 90 days as my schedule will allow. So far, I've visited employees in the headquarters building; the Headwaters project area; the Western Flood Control project; Devils Lake; the locks and dams; the Dredge William A. Thompson; and the Natural Resources office. I've also met our partners in the International Joint Commission, the

local Indian tribes, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources.

Everywhere I've been, I see the existence of strong relationships between members of the district and our partners, as well as other stakeholders. These relationships are based upon mutual respect and trust that develop over time. From my professional experience, I understand this only happens with a dedicated commitment of energy and effort on the part of all parties involved. My thanks go to all of you for sustaining those relationships.

In closing, one of my challenges as your new commander is to figure out where I can provide the most "value added" in an already highly performing organization without getting in the way. I value your opinion and your institutional experience in helping me to understand that "value added," as we share our professional journey in the Corps of Engineers. *Essays.*



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**Crosscurrents**

*Crosscurrents* is an unofficial publication, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published monthly by offset for the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Editorial views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers, nor of the Department of the Army.

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## Cover



Photo by Shannon Bauer

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, commander of the Mississippi Valley Division, passes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers colors to Col. Mike Pfenning (right), who assumed command of the St. Paul District in a ceremony July 30.





Photo by Peter Verstegen

## District changes command

Col. Mike Pfenning assumed command of the St. Paul District July 30.

The district held its change of command ceremony at the Clarence W. Wigington Pavilion on Harriet Island along the Mississippi River in St. Paul, Minn.

Pfenning serves as the district's 62nd commander and district engineer.

Prior to this position, he served as chief of the Well-Being Division in the Human Resources Policy Directorate of the Army, Washington, D.C.

He succeeds Lt. Col. Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr., who served temporarily as the district engineer from June 25 to July 30, when Col. Robert Ball, the former commander, moved on to serve as the deputy commanding officer, U.S. Army Alaska. O'Hara will continue on at the St. Paul District as the deputy district engineer.



Photo by Peter Verstegen

**The uniformed color guard of rangers and lock personnel supported the change of command. From left are Brian Sipos, Kurt Brownell, Scott Tichy, Gregory Yale and Corrine Hodapp. Tom Crump and Judy DesHarnais are top left. The change of command took place on the stage behind them. The ceremony was at Clarence W. Wigington Pavilion on Harriet Island in St. Paul, Minn.**



Photo by Shannon Bauer

**Perry Gamble (left), information management, and Warren LaPlante, safety office, reviewed the change of command program outside the Clarence W. Wigington Pavilion.**

# High-water history at change of command



Photo by Peter Verstegen

Anna Wetterling, information management, provides a frame of reference beside high-water marks that show the height of flood water at Harriet Island. The marks are on the wall at the Clarence W. Wigington Pavilion, site of the change of command ceremony.

1965

1969

2001

1997

1952

1993



Photos by Shannon Bauer

Ginni Guiton, Col. Mike Pfenning's wife, received a bouquet of roses to welcome her to the St. Paul District and to recognize her support to her husband in the leadership of the district.



The 451st Army Reserve band brass quintet from Fort Snelling, Minn., provided music for the St. Paul District change of command, July 30.



## Weichel readies hospital unit for Iraq

By Shannon Bauer

It's not just one weekend a month, two weeks a year anymore.

In addition to his 'day' job as the district maintenance officer in logistics management, Byron Weichel is a chief warrant officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. Usually, he serves with the 114th Combat Support Hospital, located at Fort Snelling, Minn.

In February 2003, however, the Army activated Weichel for one year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and transferred him to the 396th Combat Support Hospital, out of Fort Lewis, Wash., since this unit was short of people in his particular specialty. The 396th CSH was the Army's first hospital unit to be converted to a military field hospital during the Iraqi war, under what the Army is calling the Medical Re-engineering Initiative, an initiative intended to make the hospital unit smaller and more mobile.

As the unit's biomedical maintenance engineer, Weichel was responsible for all engineering issues inside the hospital, items such as ensuring smooth patient flow and providing sterile operating and blood borne pathogen areas. He had a counterpart, called the utility engineer, who was responsible for all engineering issues outside the hospital, items such as providing power and clean water.

Upon activation, these two individuals served on a team with several members of the hospital staff to design, build and begin using a field hospital in Kuwait, as



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers file photo

**Byron Weichel, logistics management, served as a reservist to set up a military field hospital in Iraq.**

well as pack and ship all the equipment needed.

In the 12 months Weichel was activated, he traveled extensively to complete his mission. He spent February to April in Washington; May to June in Kuwait; July and part of August back in Washington; part of August and September in Herlong, Calif.; and October to January back in Washington.

At Fort Lewis, he had 90 days to prepare for the journey. He and other members of his unit spent the first part of this time personally preparing by qualifying on weapons, receiving vaccinations and being issued desert camouflage uniforms, or DCUs.

The rest of the time, the unit spent packing and preparing their equipment, as well as designing the hospital. They packed 2.4 million tons of equipment into 114 military van containers in about 10 days. Weichel arrived on base after other unit members had already

spent five days packing but found the paperwork wasn't getting done.

"I worked nonstop for 24 hours, putting the paperwork in order," he said. "This meant having all the HAZMAT forms, inventory sheets, load diagrams and more in order, as well as putting all this information into a database, so once we hit the base, we would know which containers had what equipment stored in it."

Additionally, they had 76 pieces of what they call 'rolling stock,' or vehicles, generators and other items too big and bulky to pack in a box, which weighed around 330,000 tons together. They also had 15 pallets loaded with food and water, nine Meals Ready to Eat and 30 bottles of water per person, enough to sustain each person for three days. All this had to be shipped to South Carolina and then on to Kuwait.

Once the equipment was on its way, they sat down to plan the hospital and sketch out a layout that would meet the needs of the hospital's staff. The total hospital area covered roughly 12 acres, and they were required to be able to break away a smaller slice of the hospital and move it into the theater, without disturbing the remaining portion of the hospital, if necessary. Weichel was tasked with completing the drawings, since he had computer-assisted design, or CAD, software with him.

After his unit landed in Kuwait, Weichel said it took lots of effort to round up all their equipment. "The yard of equipment extended as far back as you could see," he said. "We also had to protect it.

*Weichel, continued Page 6*

## Crosscurrents

*Weichel, continued from Page 5*

Shortage of parts at the port meant other units were stripping unprotected equipment in order to make their equipment functional.” He added that his unit had to post armed guards to secure their equipment.

The unit’s war mission was short-lived, since the war ended before anticipated, with underestimated casualties. They arrived in May, with a pending mission to run a hospital, and were sent home again in June.

While there, however, Weichel was able to visit some of his Minnesota friends. “I visited some of the soldiers from my home unit that were stationed at the Armed Forces Hospital in Kuwait,” he said. “It was great to see them there.

“Our final part of the mission, at last, was to unpack the equipment at home station,” he continued. “Whatever equipment wasn’t put back into long-term storage was shipped back to Washington.”

Weichel and his unit returned to Washington the end of July and waited for their equipment to catch up with them. It arrived at Herlong, Calif., and they flew there to meet it, spending a month-and-a-half collecting it all. Each piece had to be carefully inventoried and accounted for.

It wasn’t until late December until everything was back where it should be and January until Weichel was released from active duty. “It’s great to be back, but I’ll go again if given the chance,” he said.

*Note: Weichel volunteered to deploy as a civil servant with the Corps and is temporarily working out of the Iraqi Reconstruction Office.*



Photo by Zebulon Hemsworth

**Rangers Jason Hauser (top) and Amos Wolf (right) of Leech Lake Dam, Federal Dam, Minn., awarded prizes at the 14th annual kids’ fishing derby July 17. Tommy Nass (in boat, center) of Federal Dam, helped distribute prizes. Alex Streitz (left) of Federal Dam, holds his prize for catching the most fish. Alex’s brother, holding the fishing rod, joined him.**

## Kids catch fun at Leech Lake Dam

By Zebulon Hemsworth

District rangers and 25 volunteers at Leech Lake Dam and Recreation Area, Federal Dam, Minn., hosted nearly 225 people for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual kids’ fishing derby, July 17.

Three different age groups received first, second and third place prizes for the biggest fish, as well as a prize for the most fish caught. A casting contest was held before the derby and the winners in each age group received a prize.

Names were drawn throughout the event from the 134 registered children so each would receive at least one prize – thanks to the 65 merchants who made donations.

## ‘We are doing good things in Iraq’

By Mark Davidson

The courage of the Iraqi people and the good deeds of the Americans serving in Iraq are the memories that Theresa Teed (TC) brought back from her tour of duty there.

Teed, a project assistant in project management, and better know as TC, supported Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq from Feb. 23 to June 23. She was stationed at Camp Victory in Baghdad.

*Teed, continued Page 7*



Army Corps of Engineers file photo

**Theresa Teed, project management, at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq.**

*Teed, continued from Page 6*

A 17-year employee of the federal government, Teed went through a week of training and orientation at Fort Bliss, Texas, before she deployed to Iraq.

“Once I got there, I did the time and attendance for nearly 30 Corps employees, with some of them deployed in other areas of Iraq,” she said. “I was also the field ordering officer, maintaining a budget of \$200,000.”

Teed helped get office supplies and furniture for their Corps’ office. She was the quality assurance representative for the cleaning contract for the offices. The contract covered three buildings, three office trailers, and 16 living trailers.

“My family and fellow workers here in St. Paul were glad that I went to Iraq and served, but they were very glad that I’m back,” she said. “They asked me lots of questions about Iraq and looked at all the photos I took there.”

Looking back, Teed said she’s very proud that she went to Iraq and served her country. “I learned of the courage that the people have over there. I can’t put into words how glad I am that we have the privileges here in the United States. We are doing good things in Iraq, and there are those that are glad that we are there.”

## Federal workers’ guide to political participation

By Ed Bankson  
Office of Counsel

Now that election season is upon us, it is incumbent on all federal employees to know and abide by the rules for political activity. Below is a list of activities you may engage in if you wish and a list of activities prohibited by law.

Corps employees *may*:

- be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections;
- register and vote as they choose;
- assist in voter registration drives;
- express opinions about candidates and issues;
- contribute money to political organizations;
- attend political fund-raising functions;
- attend and be active at political rallies and meetings;
- join and be an active member of a political party or club;
- sign nominating petitions;
- campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances;
- campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections;
- make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections;
- distribute campaign literature in partisan elections; and
- hold office in political clubs or parties.

Corps employees *may not*:

- use official authority or influence to interfere with an election;
- solicit or discourage political activity of anyone with business before their agency;
- solicit or receive political contributions (may be done in certain limited situations by federal labor or other employee organizations);
- be candidates for public office in partisan elections;
- engage in political activity while:
  - on duty;
  - in a government office;
  - wearing an official uniform; or
  - using a government vehicle;
- wear partisan political buttons on duty.

Should you have any questions on what you, as a federal employee, may or may not do in connection with political activity see or call an ethics counselor in office of counsel. Ed Bankston, 651-290-5500; Steve Adamski, 651-290-5498; or Ivette Garrett, 651-290-5499.





Photo by Bill Vennemann

Left to right are Bill Hurley, contracting; Lori Taylor, Rick Hauck and Dave Valen, engineering; Lisa Brantner, construction-operations; Rick Femrite, engineering; and Dave Reynolds, construction-operations. They are in the emergency operations center in Bonita Springs, Fla.

## District supports recovery from Hurricane Charley

By Peter Verstegen

*More on the what the people of the St. Paul District have done to support recovery efforts will be in the September Crosscurrents.*

The St. Paul District's planning and response team rode Hurricane Charley's lingering tail winds into Florida soon after it drifted out into the Atlantic Ocean northeast of Orlando, late August 13.

It hit landfall on the coast just north of Fort Myers, Fla., on the Gulf coast, with sustained winds of 110 mph earlier that afternoon. Thirty district personnel initially deployed to support recovery missions.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has asked

Corps of Engineers to manage temporary roofing, debris-removal and housing missions.

The Corps is one of 26 federal agencies participating in the federal response plan administered by FEMA. The plan determines the federal response to hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and other natural and man-made disasters.

"FEMA has tasked the district with two major missions [roofing and debris-removal], funded with nearly \$4 million," said Bob Silvagni, readiness branch.

District personnel are working on the needs of the more than 100,000 persons who have been displaced in five of the affected Florida counties: Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee and Sarasota.

The Corps' Jacksonville District has activated its emergency

operations center on a 24-hour basis, as has South Atlantic Division headquarters in Atlanta.

District personnel supporting the effort are:

**Dick Beatty**, project management;

**Ken Beck**, real estate;

**Connie Brantner**, construction-operations;

**Lisa Brantner**, C-O;

**Jay Bushy**, C-O;

**Dave Christenson**, readiness branch;

**Mike Dahlquist**, engineering;

**Bob Dempsey**, engineering;

**Aaron Dunlop**, information management;

**Rick Femrite**, engineering;

**Janet Golubski**, engineering;

**Tim Grundhoffer**, engineering;

**Rick Hauck**, engineering;

**Bill Hurley**, contracting;

**Jeff Huseby**, C-O;

**Mark Koenig**, C-O;

**Kari Layman**, engineering;

**Ray Marinan**, C-O;

**Randy Melby**, C-O;

**Jim Mosner**, engineering;

**Steve Odegaard**, C-O;

**Dave Reynolds**, C-O;

**Bob Schimming**, C-O;

**Rich Schueneman**, C-O

**Shelly Shafer**, readiness;

**Lori Taylor**, engineering;

**Randy Urich**, C-O;

**Dave Valen**, engineering;

**Bill Venneman**, real estate;

**Eric Wittine**, engineering;

**Terry Zien**, engineering.

### EOC in St. Paul:

**Mike McGarvey**, logistics management;

**Bob Silvagni**, readiness;

**Joe Skupa**, C-O

**Diana Tschida**, project management.





Photo by Mark Davidson

**Brig. Gen. Robert Crear (left), Mississippi Valley Division commander, greets Charlie Wooley, deputy regional director at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minn. Col. Mike Pfenning, district commander, greets Jim Michaels, chairman of city of LaCrosse, Wis., Board of Harbor Commissions.**

## Open house attracts 1,700

By Shannon Bauer

More than 1,700 people visited the Motor Vessel Mississippi during its stop in the St. Paul District in La Crosse, Wis., Aug. 13-16.

District employees hosted two open houses, boat rides in the La Crosse area and in Pool 8 and a public meeting for the Mississippi River Commission's eighth low-water inspection trip north of Guttenberg, Iowa. Guests learned about the status of the Corps'

*Open house, continued Page 10*



Photo by Shannon Bauer

**Don Powell, project manager, helped register guests for the public meeting in LaCrosse, Wis., Aug. 16.**



Photo by Shannon Bauer

**Dean Peterson (left), operations manager of the locks and dams project, speaks with Eric Nelson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Winona, Minn.. They are on a Pool 8 inspection trip.**

## Maj. Bandy assigned to contracting division

Maj. Leigh M. Bandy was assigned to the St. Paul District



**Bandy**

contracting division as part of the Army Acquisition Corps, July 30.

Prior to this assignment, he served as the chief, Army programs and

defense cooperation in armaments officer in the Office of Defense Cooperation, Oslo, Norway.

Bandy was raised in Hudson Falls, N.Y., and graduated from Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y. He received a commission in the Regular Army, air defense artillery in 1987. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in marketing and management, and a Master's of Science in management (contract management) from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.

His military education includes the Air Defense Officer Basic Course, Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College and Airborne School.

His significant military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.



Photo by Shannon Bauer

**Glen Reed, Lock and Dam 8, locking through the Motor Vessel Mississippi.**

*Open house*, continued from Page 9  
Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway Navigation Study, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Comprehensive Conservation Plan and the Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program. Additionally, the public was provided the opportunity to give feedback to members of the MRC and the Corps of Engineers.

"It was a great learning experience for those on the 18-mile inspection trip," said Don Powell, project manager, who helped plan the event's activities. "It was an opportunity for the partners and

stakeholders on the Mississippi River to communicate with each other."

Highlights of this year's trip included the presentation of plaques to some of the Corps' partners involved in the district's Pool 8 island building project for which the district received the Chief's of Engineer's Environmental Award of Excellence. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley, Jr., also attended the public hearing.



## News and Notes

### Corps' Sandy Lake Park selected in top 100 of family-friendly campgrounds

Reserve America, America's leading recreation reservation provider, selected the district's Sandy Lake Recreation Area north of McGregor, Minn., as one of its "Top 100 Family Campgrounds in America" this summer.

The Sandy Lake Recreation area is the only Minnesota campground to make this list.

Reserve America reviewed 3,000 parks nationwide, choosing its final

100 campgrounds based on family-friendly criteria, ranging from educational programs and visitor centers to camping amenities and overall beauty. The criteria were based on the requests of family campers. The quality and availability of hot showers, laundry facilities, family beaches, radio-free zones, visitor centers, children's events and location were also considered.

"We were very surprised when we heard about the selection," said Sandy's park manager Jeff Steere. "It says a lot about our permanent staff and the success of our student trainee program,"

Col. Mike Pfenning, district commander, said, "It is through teamwork that we accomplish our mission; and therefore, the staff at Sandy Lake should be proud of this recognition. To be selected as one of the 'Top 100' campgrounds out of 3,000 parks is a true honor. I am honored to be joining an organization that has such high standards."

The Corps of Engineers' Sandy Lake Recreation Area is located on the outlet of Big Sandy Lake, 13 miles north of McGregor. The site is part of the fur trade canoe route that linked Lake Superior and the Mississippi River during the 1800s. Recreational opportunities include boating, camping, fishing, interpretive programs, picnicking, playground areas and swimming.



St. Paul District photo

**Col. Mike Pfenning, district commander, toured the Dredge Thompson, Aug. 12, for a first-hand impression of the district's dredging capability. From left are: Bill Loomis, tender operator, Keith Graham, second mate, Pfenning, and Lloyd Dosh, equipment operator. The dredge was doing channel maintenance on the Mississippi River at mile 757.7 near Wabasha, Minn., to prevent an imminent closure of the navigation channel.**

### North Country Trail Association honors Tichy with award

The North Country Trail Association honored district park ranger Scott Tichy, Lake Ashtabula, N.D., for his dedication to the organization and his outstanding accomplishments in extending the trail in North Dakota at its annual meeting last month in Marietta, Ohio.

The association presented him with its 2004 Friend of the Trail Award to recognize his significant assistance and support by employees of partner agencies and organizations.

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**News and Notes**, continued Page 11



St. Paul District photo

**Scott Tichy, Lake Ashtabula, N.D., with the 2004 Friend of the Trail Award from North Country Trail Association.**

The North Country National Scenic Trail is a premier footpath that stretches more than 4,000 miles to link communities and wilderness areas across seven northern states. Already, more than 1,700 miles have been certified off-road. Additional miles follow shared footpaths, and some road walks yet remain. When completed it will be the longest off-road hiking trail in the United States.

The mission of the North Country Trail Association is to develop, maintain, preserve and promote the North Country National Scenic Trail through a national network of volunteers, chapters, partner organizations and government agencies.

According to Chris Botz, a co-worker, Tichy has worked tirelessly during the past several years to develop the North Country National Scenic Trail along Lake Ashtabula. He said

Tichy has increased the amount of certified trail significantly in North Dakota and helped increase awareness of the trail.

"Scott [Tichy] has shown the Corps of Engineers that the North Country Trail Association is a priority in North Dakota and that it deserves support through staff time and financial resources," said Botz. "He has also worked closely with the local chapter of the association to accomplish the goals of the trail in the entire region. Without Scott's contribution the association would be missing a wonderful piece of trail."



Photo by Shannon Bauer

## Woodley visits St. Paul District

At left (above), **John Paul Woodley, Jr.**, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, visited the district August 12. During a walk around the office to meet employees, he encountered **Bob Engelstad** (center), water control, and **Tim Smith**, regulatory. Woodley received project briefings on Devils Lake and Lock and Dam 3 - navigation safety and embankments. He also participated in public meetings on the Motor Vessel Mississippi, which docked at La Crosse, Wis., Aug. 13-16.

## Williams recognized

The South Washington County School District Community Education Advisory Council recognized **Russell Williams** project management, for outstanding leadership as chairperson of the advisory council. The award was presented June 22. The council represents citizens of district 833, consisting of parts of Minnesota communities of Cottage Grove, Newport, St. Paul Park and Woodbury.

## Retirements

**Ken E. Buck**, construction operations, retired July 3 after 32 years of federal service.

**Jan W. Janos**, Upper Saint Anthony Falls, retired July 3 with more than 30 years of federal service.

**Hubert F. Letourneau**, Upper Saint Anthony Falls, retired July 3 with more than 30 years of federal service.

**John A. Staige**, Fountain City Service Base, retired Aug. 2 with more than 30 years of federal service.

## Newcomers

**Michael Tolifson** was hired as the seasonal maintenance worker at Lake Traverse Project, Wheaton, Minn., starting June 21. Before starting at the Corps, he worked as a heavy equipment operator on the Riley Brothers Construction Paving Crew in Morris, Minn. He lives in Norcross, Minn., with his wife, Stacy, and 9-month-old son, Shane. He graduated from Alexandria Tech in 1992 with a degree in welding technology. He is an avid fisherman and hunter.



## Regorrah honored with national award in construction management

By Shannon Bauer

The U.S. Army Corps Engineers' headquarters selected district employee **Virginia Regorrah** for the 2003



Photo by Tricia Liggett

**Regorrah**

Construction Management Excellence Award. This follows her selection as the Mississippi Valley Division recipient of this award last

April. She is the resident engineer in East Grand Forks, Minn. Regorrah received her award in St. Louis, Aug. 9, from Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, chief of engineers, during the Corps' annual Senior Leaders Conference.

The Construction Management Excellence award is given out annually by Corps' headquarters to recognize excellence in construction management by construction field personnel.

Regorrah is currently working on more than \$55 million in active construction contracts.

She received this award for successfully managing several major construction contracts and providing superior contract administration, as well as implementing effective partnering relationships, which facilitated the quick resolution of issues and kept the construction on schedule.

## Wick receives June Employee of the Month honors

Co-workers and many customers in the Mississippi River Headwaters region near Grand Rapids, Minn., benefit from Tammy's Wick's remarkable dedication to her job and from her work ethic, wrote her nominators, John O'Leary and Gregg Struss.

When a task has a short suspense date, she is the first to say, "What can I do to help?" She pitches in on tasks of all kinds whether the work is in her job description or not. She continually mentors and coaches co-workers on the latest training regulations, mandates and procedures, always communicating in a thorough and professional manner.

As the first point of contact many customers have with Corps of Engineers, she sometimes needs to deal with angry or difficult people. In that capacity, she is always cheerful, patient and polite.

In the past few years, she has been asked to help with trade shows, special interpretive events and other ranger duties. Her stellar people skills leave new and existing customers



St. Paul District photo

**Lt. Col. Tom O'Hara presents Tammy Wick the June Employee of the Month award. She works as an administrative assistant at the St. Paul District's Mississippi River Headwaters office in Grand Rapids, Minn.**

with a very favorable impression of the Corps.

Whether it is an illness in the family, a promotion, a wedding, a birth or a death, she is there with words of encouragement, consolation or congratulations. Often, those words are accompanied by a card, gift or flowers. And, her responses are always timely, appropriate and heart-felt. When a co-worker from the Mississippi headwaters area deployed to Iraq, Wick orchestrated care packages and e-mails to help the individual through the significant challenges associated with the assignment.

## Save Dec. 10 for holiday awards ceremony

The St. Paul District's annual holiday awards ceremony is scheduled for the Prom Center, Oakdale, Minn., December 10, from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The Prom Center is at I-94 and Inwood Ave., Oakdale, Minn.